



# Shamag

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## BSU highlights entrepreneurship on its 108th Foundation Anniversary



BSU officials with guests from National Line Agencies and Local Government Units pose for prosperity during the Culminating Program for the 108th Foundation Anniversary and the 124th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary celebration on September 30, 2024 at the BSU Gymnasium

Benguet State University (BSU) celebrated its 108th Foundation Anniversary along with the 124th Philippine Civil Service Anniversary on September 2024.

The celebration was themed, "BSU Embracing Intergenerational Entrepreneurial Spirit" for the Foundation Anniversary and "Transforming Public Service in the Next Decade: Honing Agile and Future-Ready Servant Heroes," for the Civil Service Anniversary.

The activities lined-up in celebration of the University's milestone and the CS Anniversary began on September 9, 2024 after the Flag Raising Ceremony. This was followed by the Society for Southeast Asian Agricultural Sciences (ISSAAS) National Scientific Congress 2024; Special Treats for Employees; University Solid Work and Anti Dengue Drive: Booths, Exhibits and Open House; 4th Edition of BSU Great Ride; Launching and Ribbon Cutting of the Entrepreneurial Booths, Launching of *BSU highlights...continued on page 5*

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## BSU hosts ISSAAS National Scientific Congress

Benguet State University (BSU) successfully hosted the Society for Southeast Asian Agricultural Sciences (ISSAAS) National Scientific Congress 2024 on September 11-13, 2024.

With the theme "Resilient and Sustainable Agriculture: Uniting Science, Technology, Innovation, and Policy," the event brought together researchers from various Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and National Line Agencies (NLAs) across the Philippines.

The keynote speaker Department of Agriculture (DA) Secretary Francisco Tiu Laurel, Jr. was represented by Jennilyn M. Dawayan, Executive Regional Director of the DA-Cordillera Administrative Region.

In his message, Laurel emphasized that the ISSAAS conference provides a platform for stakeholders to exchange ideas, share knowledge, and build partnerships to shape the future of

agriculture in the country. He highlighted the significance of the event to help reduce food insecurity and ensure food availability and affordability of safe and nutritious food.

Laurel also urged participants to focus on applying research and bridging the gap between research and practice. He emphasized the need to translate innovation into real-world applications to create a resilient agricultural sector in the country.

"We need to bridge the gap between research and practice to translate our innovation into real world applications. Let us collaborate, innovate, and *BSU hosts...continued on page 4*



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*Shamag*, first published in 1996, is the official newsletter of Benguet State University. It was named after the Ibaloi word for news. It is one of the platforms for BSU to disseminate the programs, achievements and advocacies to its stakeholders. *Shamag* aims to help the University advance its goals by championing effective communication and partnerships.

Articles, pictures, comments, suggestions, reactions, and letters to the Editor may be submitted to the BSU-Public Affairs Office at [publicaffairs@bsu.edu.ph](mailto:publicaffairs@bsu.edu.ph). However, the *Shamag* staff reserves the right to edit submitted materials for mechanics and ethics. The *Shamag* is guided by the Associated Press (AP) style and journalistic standards.

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*Shamag* may shorten content due to space limitations.

## Benguet State University

### VISION

BSU as an International Smart University engendering graduates to walk the intergenerational highways.

### MISSION

**BSU CARES** to: **C**hallenge innovation, **A**dvance technology and facility, **R**evitalize administration, **E**ngender partnership, and **S**erve intergenerational role.

### DEVELOPMENT GOALS

**Goal I.** Challenge Innovation in the four fold functions of the University

#### Objectives:

1. **(Instruction)** To provide quality education responsive to the needs of time;
2. **(Research)** To enhance research productivity contributing to sustainable development;
3. **(Extension)** To disseminate relevant research outputs and other scholarly activities consistent with BSU's mandated programs;
4. **(Production)** To promote sustainable and appropriate resource generation strategies for the implementation of development plans; and
5. **(Administration)** To advocate for resource management and effective energy efficiency in addressing the demands of climate change.

**Goal II.** Advance Technology and Facility by shaping the University become responsive to modern needs.

#### Objectives:

1. **(Instruction)** To use information and communication technology learning resources to sustain and enhance quality of alternative teaching - learning continuity endeavors;
2. **(Research and Extension)** To upgrade facilities and enable researchers/extensionists to conduct activities using specialized facilities;
3. **(Production)** To acquire and upgrade state-of-the-art facilities in the projects innovation; and
4. **(Administration)** To upgrade facilities and establish modern physical infrastructures.

**Goal III.** Revitalize Administration by harmonizing performance monitoring, information, and reporting systems.

#### Objectives:

1. To elevate the BSU PRIME-HRM to a level of excellence for good governance and efficient public service;
2. To reinforce transparency, integrity, and objectivity in the delivery of service;
3. To regenerate instruction, research, extension, production, linkages, governance, management, and policies; and
4. To streamline operations to be efficient, effective, and responsive to challenges and changes.

**Goal IV.** Engender Partnership by proactively strengthening linkages

#### Objectives:

1. **(Instruction)** To establish academic partnerships with local, regional, national, and international institutions providing educational opportunities for faculty, staff, and students;
2. **(Research)** To increase and sustain university relations with academe, industries, GOs, NGOs, and LGUs for research funding;
3. **(Extension)** To increase and sustain partnership with academe, LGUs, NGOs, Industries, and others; and
4. **(Production)** To comply with existing laws, policies and other requirements.

**Goal V.** Serve Intergenerational Role by revitalizing the Spiritual, Physical, Economical, Cultural, Intellectual, Emotional, and Social (S.P.E.C.I.E.S.) state.

#### Objectives:

1. To offer programs that embody social, cultural, economic and developmental needs both for local and global markets;
2. To champion local culture and languages in the University context through research, extension, and academic programs;
3. To document best practices of the University.

AdCo Action No. 03, s.2021

## Quality Policy

Benguet State University is continuously committed to improve its Quality Management System, satisfy requirements of relevant interested parties and provide excellent service for quality education and innovative research aligned with sustainable development and client satisfaction.

Board Resolution # 2847 S.2016

## BSU Hosts Misotrans Network Summer Academy on Migration Studies 2024



Delegates from the Migration and Social Transformation (Misotrans) Network at the Cordillera Regional Apiculture Center//IRO

Benguet State University welcomed 23 delegates from the Migration and Social Transformation (Misotrans) Network on September 10–11, 2024 for the 2024 Summer Academy. The academy aims to immerse participants in the Cordilleran cultural landscapes, providing them with the global perspectives and skills needed to address complex social challenges.

During their visit, they attended a series of lectures showcasing the University's research initiatives on indigenous peoples. This was followed by a campus and community tour, where they explored the Cordillera Regional Apiculture Center (CRAC), Food Science Research and Innovation Center (FSRIC), and the Northern Philippines Root Crops Research and Training Center (NPRCRTC).// International Relations Office

## Officials from Thai universities arrive at BSU for cooperation program on technology business incubation



A delegation from three partner universities in Thailand were welcomed by BSU officials at the RDC Hall on September 12, 2024 for a courtesy meeting in reference to the Philippine-Thailand Cooperation Program on Technology Business Incubation formalized through a Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2023.

The delegation was led by Kal Kalayanamitra, Director of the Maejo University Agro Food Park; Santiwat Pithakpol, Director of the Innovation and Technology Transfer Institute of the University of Phayao; and Sitthi Duangphet, Deputy Director of the Northern Science Park, Mae Fah Luang University.

Along with BSU officials led by President Felipe Salaing Comila, graduates of the BSU Agri-based Technology Business Incubator/Innovation Center (ATBI/IC) were also there to greet the Thai guests.

The meeting re-ignited commitments from both sides and spurred discussions based on the common dedication to support research

endeavors, technological incubation, talent development, academic collaboration, and cross-cultural engagement.

Aside from the courtesy meeting, the Thai delegation will be in BSU until September 15, 2024 for a knowledge-sharing, socio-cultural immersion, and collaboration workshop in order to define future plans of action.//JTabangcura



ISSAAS Philippine Chapter officials with BSU officials and employees pose for prosperity after the opening program of the ISSAAS National Scientific Congress held on September 11, 2024 at the BSU Gymnasium

*BSU hosts...from page 1*

implement to create a resilient agricultural sector for Masaganang Bagong Pilipinas,” Laurel concluded.

The congress featured a total of 90 research presentations covering a wide range of topics, organized into four plenary sessions: Cutting-Edge Science, Technology, and Innovation in Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources (AANR); Agroecology Strategies for Climate Resilience and Sustainable AANR; Post-Production Innovations, Nutrition, and Food Science; and Socioeconomics, Policy, and Culture.

Distinguished plenary speakers were Reynante L. Ordonio of the Philippine Rice Research Institute; Bernardo N. Sepeda of the National Research Council of the Philippines; Corazon L. Abansi of the University of the Philippines Baguio; Amparo M. Wagan of the UP Los Baños; and Junel B. Soriano of the Department of Agriculture Bureau of Agricultural Research.

On the last day of the congress, participants explored the Northern Blossom in Atok, the Living Gifts in Bahong, La Trinidad, and the Benguet Agri-Pinoy Trading Center (BAPTC) in La Trinidad, Benguet.

BSU VP for Research and Extension and Co-Chair of the 2024 ISSAAS National Scientific Congress, Roscinto Ian C. Lumbres said that among the significant benefits of the event was the generation of interest from external agencies in collaborating with BSU such as the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice), the University of the Philippines Los Baños (UPLB), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and other State Universities and Colleges (SUCs). He also said that the plenary speakers were impressed with the different papers presented by the BSU researchers.

“One benefit we gained from the event is that there were interested agencies

*BSU highlights...continued on page 8*

## Hagat, Guam officials visit Benguet State University



Officials from Hagat, Guam, USA with BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila, BSU International Relations Office Director Rex John Bawang, and Municipality of La Trinidad Officials Vice Mayor Roderick C. Awingan during their visit to BSU on September 3, 2024

A delegation of five from Hagat, Guam, USA arrived at Benguet State University (BSU) on September 3, 2024. The group was welcomed by BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila and university officials.

The visiting delegation included Mayor Kevin Susuico, Joann Susuico, Tyler Tedtaotao, Sage Reyes, and Rosemarie Nededog. They were accompanied by La Trinidad Municipal officials led by Vice Mayor Roderick C. Awingan.

Upon arrival, the visitors were treated to a musical performance by the BSU Tribung Admin group band.

International Relations Office (IRO) Director Rex John Bawang extended a warm welcome to the visitors, highlighting BSU's favorable climate. BSU President Comila also expressed his gratitude for their visit and encouraged them to enjoy their time at the university.

Afterwards, Susuico expressed his honor and appreciation for the warm welcome and thanked the BSU officials for their hospitality.

After the short program and lunch, the visitors were toured to the BSU Marketing Center and Museum, guided by IRO staff Glyrel Palberas and Benigno Mangay-at.

The event highlights the sisterhood partnership between the La Trinidad Local Government Unit (LGU) and the Hagat LGU. Aside from La Trinidad, other municipalities in Guam also have sisterhood ties with Sablan and Kapangan, Benguet. //BTayaban & GPalberas

# BSU CPAG, OU's graduate programs undergo CHED evaluation



The CHED Evaluation Team and the BSU Officials and the Local Task Force after the Closing Meeting for the Evaluation of CPAG and OU graduate programs by the CHED on September 19, 2024 at the RDC Hall

To ensure that academic programs are in compliance with the minimum requirements set by the Commission of Higher Education (CHED), Benguet State University (BSU) submitted three graduate degree programs for evaluation by the CHED Technical Evaluator and Technical Committee Team on September 19, 2024 at the RDC Hall. The evaluation process was also intended to determine the programs' eligibility for the issuance of Certificate of Program Compliance (COPC) by CHED.

The CHED Evaluation Team was composed of Roselle Jardin, Jose Neil Hortillo, Ronald Pastrana, Lucita B. Mejia, Menzie O. Kuengan, and Godfrey Mendoza. The team assessed the Master in Public Administration (MPA) program offered by the College of Public Administration and Governance (CPAG) and the Master in Human Resource Management (MHRM) and

Master in Cooperative Management (MCM) of the Open University (OU).

BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila and VP for Academic Affairs Samuel S. Poliden expressed their gratitude to the evaluation team for their expertise and support in improving the university's graduate programs.

"The evaluators will help us realize our vision and mission for our university and

to help us serve the community better. They will tell us what to do, how to do it, and when to do it. We will continue to sustain these programs and champion them," said Comila. Before the evaluation proper, Jardin gave an orientation of the activity and assured the team's support for the University to meet their targets towards certifications.

*BSU CPAG...continued on page 8*

## BSU highlights...from page 1

Bamboo Demo Farm; President's Hour and Kapihan sa BSU; Caring for iBSU, A caravan in September to Remember; BSU Health and Wellness Activities; Dengue Education and Awareness Activities for Students; PRAISE Everlasting Awards, Employee's Day; Fun Run; and Dinner for a Cause. These events were participated by the BSU employees, students, and the public. Other activities in line with the said celebration are scheduled on October 2024.

The Thanksgiving Service held on September 23, 2024 was officiated by the members of the La Trinidad Ecumenical Council of Churches (LTECC) with The Rt. Rev. Nestor D. Poltic Sr. of the Episcopal Church of the Philippines as the messenger.

The President's Hour and Kapihan sa BSU was held at the College of Human Kinetics Hall. The activity, in partnership with the Philippine Information Agency-Cordillera Administrative Region (PIA-CAR), served as a platform for BSU to showcase its recent accomplishments and its impact to the communities.

In recognition of employees and offices within the University who showed exemplary performance, outstanding BSU employees were honored during the PRAISE Everlasting Awards on September 25, 2024. Five sets of awards were given to recognize excellence in job performance, responsiveness, team work, nobility in character, service at its best, and greatness in achievement.

The culminating program was held on September 30, 2024 at the University Gymnasium. This was graced by Executive Director Jennilyn M. Dawayan of the Department of Agriculture-Cordillera Administrative Region (DA-CAR) and Benguet Congressman Hon. Eric G. Yap represented by La Trinidad Vice Mayor Hon. Roderick C. Awingan. As guest speakers, both lauded BSU's unwavering commitment to higher education, its invaluable contributions to community service, and its resilience amidst challenges through the years.

"BSU really stands through the test of time. Apart from the constant drive to evolve or improve, through fundamental research works and community service, BSU is at the forefront of moving along the waves of evolution and not across it," said Yap in his written message.

Despite facing challenges, they highlighted BSU's significant impact on the livelihood of highland communities, noting the transformation of Benguet and Cordilleran farmers from mere vegetable producers to agri-entrepreneurs. Dawayan also commended BSU for its production of processed agricultural products and its advancements in agricultural technology, which have greatly benefited local farmers.

Dawayan and Yap expressed their full support for BSU's advocacy to promote entrepreneurship among the communities in the province and looked forward to continuous collaboration with BSU.

Past members of the BSU Board of Regents (BOR), Susana G. Umayat and *BSU highlights...continued on page 6*

# Three BSU degree programs revisited by AACCCUP



The Closing Meeting for the Online Accreditation Survey Visit for the programs offered at BSU La Trinidad and Buguias was held on September 26, 2024. This was attended by VP for Academic Affairs Samuel S. Poliden, Office for Quality Assurance and Accreditation Director Beverly C. Sa-ao, the BSU Local Task Force, and the accreditors.

The Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCCUP) reassessed the undergraduate degree programs offered at the Benguet State University (BSU) Buguias and La Trinidad during the Online Accreditation Survey Visit held on September 24-26, 2024.

The evaluated programs were the Bachelor of Elementary Education (BEE) and Bachelor of Secondary Education (BSE) at the BSU Buguias for Level II and the Bachelor of Library and Information Science (BLIS) of the BSU La Trinidad for Level III Phase II. The accreditation involved reevaluation of these programs under the areas of Extension and Laboratories for BEE and BSE while the area of Extension for BLIS.

The AACCCUP Accreditation Team was composed of Benhur A. Asid of the Western Mindanao State University (WMSU), Benjamin B. Mangila of the J.H. Cerilles State College (JHCSC), and Razil M. Gumanoy of the North Eastern Mindanao State University (NEMSU). They looked into the program documents and conducted a virtual tour of the facilities.

BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila and VP for Academic Affairs Samuel S. Poliden expressed their gratitude to the accreditors for the opportunity to evaluate the three undergraduate programs. They assured the accreditors that BSU would remain steadfast in its commitment to upholding high educational standards for its students.

Comila highlighted the crucial role of accreditors in ensuring the success of BSU's academic programs. He urged the BSU Local Task Force to continue working diligently to enhance the curriculum to benefit the students and the community.

At the closing meeting on September 26, 2024, the accreditors gave their impressions on the accredited programs. They shared the programs'

strengths and development observed during the evaluation process, highlighting the BSU's extension projects and initiatives to serve the local communities and the well-equipped laboratories to facilitate students in their learning activities.

Afterwards, Poliden representing Comila delivered his words of commitment and gratitude, assuring that the accreditors' comments will be considered for improvement of the programs.

"Your feedback serves as an eye-opener for us as we strive for excellence in our programs, not just for the BEE and BSE but in all the programs we are offering in the campus," said Lemar A. Ablaza, Associate Executive Dean of the BSU Buguias in his closing remarks.//EBawayan

## BSU highlights...from page 5

Eduardo V. Abastilla were also recognized in the program. They responded by sharing their experiences and insights as former private sector representatives of the BOR.

In a show of commitment to public service, BSU employees led by Chief Administrative Officer Matias C. Angiwan Jr. recited the *Panunumpa ng Kawani ng Gobyerno*.

BSU was established as a farm school in 1916. It gradually expanded its offerings and became a national agricultural school. Over the years, it underwent several name changes and was eventually converted into a state university in 1986.//



Executive Director Jennilyn M. Dawayan of the DA-CAR and Benguet Congressman Hon. Eric G. Yap represented by La Trinidad Vice Mayor Hon. Roderick C. Awingan deliver their message as keynote speakers during the culminating program for the BSU 108th Foundation Anniversary and Civil Service Anniversary on September 30, 2024 at the BSU Gym

# BSU graduates excel in Librarian Licensure Exam

A total of 28 Benguet State University (BSU) graduates have passed the Librarians Computer-Based Licensure Examinations conducted on September 11-12, 2024 in Rosales, Pangasinan and Manila by the Philippine Regulation Commission.

All successful examinees are first-time takers listing a BSU passing rate of 75.68%. The University surpassed the national passing rate of 48.77%.

College of Information Sciences (CIS) Dean Russell B. Dolendo expressed her delight in the university's continued success in the said licensure exam.

"I am happy that BSU surpassed the national passing rate of the licensure examination and ever since we have consistently surpassed the national passing rate," she said. She commended the BSU graduates for their resiliency and perseverance in overcoming challenges during their studies and preparation for the examination. She added that despite challenges like the impact of pandemic

restrictions on both online and face-to-face classes, remote testing centers, and the unexpected switch to a computer-based licensure exam, the BSU graduates performed outstandingly on the board exam.

Dolendo and Chairperson of the Department of Library and Information Science Elizabeth A. Lascano shared the department's best practices that contributed to the high passing rate. These practices included curriculum enhancement to incorporate computer-based skills, conducting review sessions, and inviting experts in library science as resource speakers. It included also their support and motivation for their students from admission to graduation and throughout their preparation for the licensure exam.

To further improve the future University's performance in the librarian licensure exam, they shared the college plans to conduct pre-examination seminars to enhance their preparation for the board exam. Additionally, they also encourage those who did not pass to participate in review sessions to improve their chances in future attempts.

Lascano also shared that they motivate their students by emphasizing the importance of taking the licensure exam promptly after graduation, while the knowledge gained is still fresh. She further said that they urge the students to take the board exam highlighting the greater chances of employability for librarians due to the limited number of professionals in the field.

"We thank the administration for continually recognizing and supporting the Bachelor of Library and Information Science program. We were able to maintain the program and in terms of licensure examination, we appreciate the support of the administration especially to the board exam passers," expressed Dolendo.//EBawayan

## BSU faculty members serve as speakers at the research symposium on Indigenous Health Practices

As part of an ongoing partnership with the University of Guam (UoG), faculty members from BSU were invited to speak at a research symposium on Indigenous Health Practices of the Cordillera and the Pacific. The team includes Stanley Anongos Jr., Gigy Banes, Ruth Batani, Karryl Ngina, and Tecah Sagandoy from the College of Social Sciences, along with Estrellita Daclan, head of Gender and Development. The exchange provided unique opportunity to forge lasting connections and partnerships aside from exploring the intricate tapestry of indigenous healing modalities. Since 2018, BSU and UoG have maintained a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to collaborate on issues related to Indigenous health, gender, history, and culture.

The team later met with the President and Senior Vice President and deans of the University of Guam to explore opportunities for further collaboration. They were also introduced to the University's "Sharing Island Wisdom" program, specifically the project on Reviving Traditional Navigation project.

Already on its 7th year, the faculty-student program facilitated



BSU's hosting of UoG's visits in 2018 and 2023 respectively, while UoG funded and hosted this recent visit and a previous visit back in 2019. This program was initiated

by Liza Linda Natividad of UoG under the Department of Social Work and Chamoru Studies and Gigy Banes of the College of Social Sciences, BSU.//SANongosJr.

# CTE Triumphs in Group Singing Competition at Benguet Teacher's Day Celebration



Agustin D. David, Dante M. Miguel, Roben S. Jaco, Rose Ann A. Rivera and Betty M. Divindo on stage with Yvonne B. Tabdi on keyboard, and Jericris Desumala on guitar rendered *Tagumpay Nating Lahat* during the Benguet HEIs group singing competition held on September 20, 2024//JBelardo

The College of Teacher Education (CTE) emerged as the champion in the group singing competition held during the Benguet Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) Teacher's Day celebration on September 20, 2024. The event, hosted at the DSG Hall, was part of the larger "Together4Teachers" celebration aimed at honoring the great role in educating children, youth, and adults for lifelong learning.

The singing competition was one of the highlights of the day's activities, which saw spirited performances from participating institutions including King's College of the Philippines, Philippine Nazarene College, and Cordillera Career Development College. In a display of voice quality and timing, harmony and expression, stage presence and audience impact, and use of instruments and appropriate costume, CTE secured the first-place spot with their rendition of *Tagumpay Nating Lahat*.

Organized by the Benguet Provincial Government in partnership with the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), and the Philippine Association for Teachers and Educators-Cordillera Administrative Region (PAFTE-CAR), the celebration opened with a seminar on Construction and Outcomes-Based Assessment led by

Elizabeth M. Sagubo from the University of the Cordilleras. Attendees were then treated to an insightful presentation on the responsible use of Artificial Intelligence in academic writing and research by Frey T. Orenicia of BSU's College of Information Sciences.

In the afternoon, teachers took a break from the classroom to participate in wellness activities led by Marlon S. Tabdi, Dean of the College of Human Kinetics at BSU. The physical activities, aimed at promoting health and well-being among educators, were guided by wellness coaches Charvet Caytap and Maria Lourdes Obidos.

The day ended on a high note with the group singing competition where the College of Teacher Education's victory added an extra layer of joy to the celebration. Their win highlighted their musical talent and showcased the strength of teamwork and camaraderie among the institution's educators.//JBelardo

## BSU CPAG...from page 5

Throughout the evaluation process, the team reviewed the program documents under the areas of board resolutions on the offering of the programs; accreditation status; program description, outcomes, goals, and objectives; profile of the dean and program coordinator; faculty profile; curriculum; Outcomes-Based Education (OBE) requirement; library resources; laboratory and facilities; admission and retention policy, adviser to student ration, and thesis/dissertation panel; research and creative works; and Higher Education Institution (HEI)-Industry partnership. It also involved validation of the evidence and interviews with the key persons involved.

During the closing meeting, the evaluators shared their findings on the evaluated programs, highlighting the strengths of the three programs and areas of improvement. They also commended the BSU Local Task Force for their cooperation throughout the evaluation period. Likewise, Comila delivered his words of commitment and gratitude to the evaluators. He then expressed support to the colleges and urged them to continue working together towards quality programs and services.

The evaluation process is also an essential step for the MPA, MHRM, and MCM's accreditation by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines (AACCCUP).//EBawayan

## BSU hosts...from page 4

to collaborate with BSU and hopefully that would result in research funding from other agencies. We learned a lot, especially from our researchers. We were able to learn what research activities are being conducted by other institutions, and we would like to explore a partnership with them," Lumbres said. He added that as the host of the national congress, BSU could potentially collaborate with other SUCs on future national and international conferences.

Lumbres also looked forward to the commercialization of the researches presented during the congress to benefit the broader community.

"We hope the BSU researches presented will be commercialized. This commercialization aligns with BSU President Felipe Salaing Comila's advocacy on entrepreneurship. By commercializing our research, we aim to benefit the community and make our innovations more widely accessible to the public," he added.

The conference aimed to follow up on the success of the 2023 Conference and to advance ISSAAS' objective to encourage the holistic approach to problems and promote the progress and development of science and technology through research and publication for regional agricultural development.

BSU is hoping to send a representative to participate in the upcoming ISSAAS International Congress in Japan this November 2024.//EBawayan